

Press Release

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LDAF Rolls Out Mobile Pet Shelter

Baton Rouge, La. (August 15, 2015) – Today, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) activated its mobile pet shelter to the Baton Rouge River Center which is now sheltering evacuees.

“It’s so important to co-locate displaced people with their family pets. People are more inclined to evacuate if they know their pets can come with them,” said Agriculture and Forestry Commissioner Mike Strain, D.V.M. “This is also a lifesaving measure. We have learned from past experience that people will remain in harm’s way before leaving without their pets.”

The mobile pet shelter can hold approximately 50 pets. It is a tractor trailer equipped with metal cages, generator, battery power and a cleaning station. It has an air ventilation system to provide proper air circulation and temperature for the pets.

Strain also visited the pet shelter located at the Celtic Media Centre in Baton Rouge. “In one of the buildings, the pets are actually with their owners inside the shelter where they are housed in pet crates. It was organized, clean and the pets seemed to be getting along with one another,” said Strain.

Pets that arrived with patients at the LSU critical-needs shelter were taken to Dixon Correctional Institute for safe sheltering.

The LDAF is designated by the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act to transport and shelter pets in disasters.

The LDAF also continues to provide emergency fuel for first responders, stranded motorists and shelters.

Residents who need assistance with recovering a pet from their home or emergency sheltering for their pets are encouraged to contact the Offices of Emergency Preparedness. For contact information, go to <http://gohsep.la.gov/ABOUT/PARISHPA>.

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